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THE war may last another five, ten, twenty years or longer. Hanoi, Haiphong and other cities, and enterprises may be destroyed, but the Vietnamese people will not be intimidated! Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. Once victory is won, our people will rebuild our country and endow it with bigger and more beautiful constructions.

President HO CHI MINH's Appeal
July 1966

NORTH VIETNAM

- **Between February 26 and March 11, 6 U.S. Warships Set Afire or Seriously Damaged, Including the Cruiser *Canberra* and the Destroyer *Keppler*.**
- **8 U.S. Planes Downed in One Day (Mar. 12).**

TOTAL OF U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED (Up to Mar. 15) : 1,725

Guerilla surprise attack in Tay Ninh

- **March 19 Nation-Wide Anti-U.S. Day** (Pages 4-5)
- **March 13-19 Week of Tri-Continental Solidarity with Vietnam** (Page 6)
- **U.S. Imperialists' *"Burn All, Destroy All, Kill All"* Policy in South Vietnam** (Supplement)

SOUTH VIETNAM

IN THE FIRST 13 DAYS OF MARCH

THE L.A.F. WON BIG VICTORIES ON VARIOUS BATTLEFIELDS

They :

— Defeated U.S. Operation *Junction City*, Wiping Out 3,300 GIs, Destroying 344 Military Vehicles and 55 Artillery Pieces and Shooting Down 49 Aircraft;

— Shelled Da Nang Air Base Twice (Feb. 27 and Mar. 15) and Mortared Chu Lai Air Base (Mar. 6), Destroying 58 Aircraft and Wiping Out 665 GI's;

— Poured 2,085 Mortar Rounds into U.S. 175mm Artillery Positions at Gio Linh, Quang Tri Province (Feb. 28 — Mar. 7).

WOMEN'S PLACE IN THE D.R.V. PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY

1) Nguyen Thi Lai, head of Bui co-operative and deputy to the National Assembly.
2) Bui Thi Lo, deputy head of Dai Xuan co-operative, Hai Duong province.

IN ELECTED STATE ORGANS :

The women make up :
— 14.5% of the total membership of the National Assembly (66 women deputies among them one Deputy Speaker ; 11.5% in 1962).
— 26.1% of the membership of provincial People's Councils (21% in 1962).
— 27.28% of the membership of district councils (23% in 1962).
— 20.78% of the membership of village councils (17% in 1962).

IN STATE BODIES :

— 4 vice ministers, 17 directors of central services.
— 47 directors of industrial establishments, 108 heads and deputy heads of department.
— 63 heads and deputy-heads of provincial services.
— 180 managers and deputy-managers of state workshops and stores.
— 162 chairmen of village administrative committee, 238 vice-chairmen *.
— 8 chairmen and vice-chairmen of district *.

IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS :

— 2,145 university graduates.
— 11,888 middle-level technicians.
— 20,098 low-level technicians.

The women make up 30% of the technical manpower (43% in light industry, 45.65% in Public Health Service).
— 249 college and university lecturers.
— 15,051 general education teachers.
— 3,773 college and university students.

IN AGRICULTURE :

— 3,753 managers and vice-managers of co-ops.
— 45,050 production team leaders.

IN THE PEOPLE'S MILITIA :

The women account for
— 29.50% of the total effectives.
— 2.1% of the battalion commanders.
— 14.9% of the commanders of village militia.
— from 10.2 to 30.4% of company, platoon and group commanders.

IN EMULATION :

— 17 heroines in the recent selection (III).
— 1,906 emulation fighters.
— One all-woman unit recognized as Hero-Unit and 252 others as Socialist Labour Brigades and Teams.

* *Figures taken from 20 of the 28 provinces and cities.*

VIETNAM WOMEN IN NATION-WIDE STRUGGLE

" I want to harness tempests, to tame white-crested waves, to slain whales and sharks and to drive away the aggressors, not to resign to becoming concubine to anybody. "

THESE were the words of young Trieu Thi Trinh who, in 248 A.D., clad in mail and riding an elephant, led her troops against the aggressors.

The Vietnamese women, in both North and South, who are today waging a war of resistance against U.S. aggression are thus continuing a tradition dating more than one thousand years back. At each stage of her struggle for national independence, Vietnam has always given birth to many a heroine. Today, as the people's war is developing more vigorously than ever before the participation of women in the nation-wide struggle has assumed a mass character, drawing into the everyday, multiform struggle millions of young girls, mothers and old women. They are not only ensuring production in the rear area, replacing the men who have gone to the front, taking charge of their families, and assuming most diversified responsibilities, but also directly confronting the enemy in most fierce struggles, both political and military.

IN South Vietnam each woman knows how to hurl a hand-grenade, handle a machinegun or lay a mine when necessary. Thousands upon thousands of unarmed women are daily confronting U.S. or puppet troops. By hundreds and thousands, they would cling to the coats of enemy troops, encircle enemy headquarters and administrative offices to demand an end to the bombing, shelling and aerial spray of toxic chemicals, or lie on the roads to bar the way to the enemy's armoured trucks.

By hundreds and thousands, they have been arrested, tortured, exiled or shot. But nothing can stop them, and the tide is surging higher and higher every day with women demonstrating, marching, confronting American and puppet troops, persuading them, harassing them, obstructing their operations and demoralizing them.

By hundreds and thousands, they are keeping the front supplied, carrying everything on their frail shoulders, and many are those who, rifles in hands, are directly taking part in the armed struggle. The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces is a woman, Madame Nguyen Thi Dinh. Without the massive participation of women the resistance in South Vietnam could not be such as it is today.

IN the North it has become a common thing to see women of all ages working with their rifles within reach and dashing to their combat positions at the first signal of alert. Hundreds of thousands of young girls are working side by side with young men in defence work or road repair.

At the last National Congress of Heroes and Emulation Fighters 17 Heroines and 44 women Emulation Fighters were chosen from various branches of activity.

Millions of women, in the North and in the South alike, have realized that national independence is the first condition for their own emancipation and they are defending it with their own blood.

In North Vietnam, with the definite elimination of the feudal regime through land reform, and with the establishment of socialism, women have occupied a more and more important place in social life. They are appointed to all public functions, and enjoy the same interests and rights as men ; despite the paucity of material means the Government and the mass organizations are doing all they can to multiply infant classes, crèches, kindergartens and collective kitchens to alleviate the women's work.

Since the U.S. started its war of aggression, the women's economic and social role has become still more important. Women account for nearly 70 per cent of the work force in agriculture and 50 per cent in light industry (62 per cent in the textile industry). More and more women are taking part in teaching and the public health service.

Women also asure all technical or managerial functions. Special courses have been opened to enable women at all levels to acquire the knowledge necessary for their new posts.

In the countryside in particular, thousands of classes have been opened to women peasants to help them rapidly assume the task of presidents of co-operatives, leaders of production brigades, chief accountants and so on.

The young generation formed in the socialist regime and its schools is characterized by its gaiety and quiet boldness whereas in the old society, women always assumed a serious and submissive air. But neither their participation in the fighting nor their outdoor activities have robbed the Vietnamese women of their sweetness and their boundless love and fidelity to their families and children.

With a piece of cloth, the Hanoi women know how to make a lovely jacket and with a few flowers, to make their homes stylish. Yet, at the first signal of alert, the same merry and smart girls would run to their rifles.

THE U.S. AGGRESSORS STILL BENT ON HITTING THE NORTH VIETNAM PEOPLE'S SOURCE OF LIFE

FOLLOWING shellings by long-range guns based south of the demilitarized zone of the Vinh Linh area, systematic bombardments by Seventh Fleet warships of the coastal areas, and the dropping of mines into many rivers of North Vietnam, the Yankee pirates have been continually attacking various industrial and populous areas : on March 10 and 11, 1967, in many waves they hit the Thai Nguyen town and iron and steel complex as well as Hon Gai and Ha Bac towns and fired rockets on Hai Phong city, killing and wounding many civilians and destroying many houses. In Hon Gai a nursery was razed and the local church completely demolished. Then on March 12, 1967 the Viet Tri industrial centre and many populous areas in Vinh, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Hon Gai, Phu Tho... were savagely hit. Moreover U.S. planes dropped bombs along the Red River banks, in the very centre of the D.R.V. capital. Again on March 13, 1967 they bombed Hon Gai, Ninh Binh and Thanh Hoa towns, causing many losses to the civilian population.

Those frenzied criminal deeds of the American imperialists have laid bare their persistent, perfidious and impudent scheme in the escalation of their aggressive war against Vietnam.

On March 11 and 14, 1967, the D.R.V. Foreign Ministry issued statements denouncing those acts of the U.S. imperialists as extremely serious escalation moves in their war against the D.R.V. and demanding that " they must stop the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V., end their aggressive war against Vietnam, withdraw all troops of the U.S. and its satellites from South Vietnam, respect the Vietnamese people's basic national rights recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. "

Upon learning that Haiphong and its vicinity had been attacked by U.S. aircraft on March 10 and 11, 1967 the Delegation of the International Commission for Investigation of U.S. War Crimes in Vietnam arrived there on March 12. It inspected the sites, interviewed eyewitnesses and the relatives of the victims.

The Delegation unanimously reached the following conclusion :

1. Of the two missiles fired on March 10, one had directly hit three houses in Me Linh Street where it had killed one person and wounded 5 others.

On March 11, 7 places had been hit, 6 of which by 15 missiles, and the other — on Hon Dau Isle—by the still uncounted up number of missiles. That day, one person was killed and 14 others wounded, many of them seriously.

2. None of the places that had been hit was near to a military objective. Four of the attacked places were in the very heart of the city's most densely populated area.

One of these four places was in the immediate neighbourhood of Vo Thi Sau school. Another was a small Buddhist temple which was demolished. As for Hon Dau Isle, U.S. aircraft obviously aimed at the most powerful lighthouse there which was of vital importance to the security of navigation.

3. The March 10 and 11 raids pointed to a fresh escalation, both through the nature of the attacked places and the use of a new type of " anti-personnel " weapon. Indeed, the Delegation could see that the kind of missile used was loaded with a very great number of small steel cubes with sharp edges which could cause no damage to installations but injuries to human body even more serious than pellet bombs.

In conclusion the Delegation unanimously holds that the methods it has just described constitute :

a) means of intimidation and terrorism obviously and exclusively directed against the civilian population ;

b) serious violation of the The Hague (1907) and Geneva (1949) conventions.

DENUNCIATION OF U.S. "BURN ALL, DESTROY ALL, KILL ALL" POLICY IN SOUTH VIETNAM

ON March 13, 1967, in Hanoi, the Permanent Delegation of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation held a press conference on the publication of the book *U.S. Imperialists' " Burn All, Destroy All, Kill All " Policy in South Vietnam.*

The book denounces the barbarous crimes of genocide carried out by the American imperialists in South Vietnam, an extremely inhuman policy which has made hundreds of thousands of victims.

" Burn all, destroy all, kill all " — this policy is closely bound to the American war of aggression and has been carried into effect by the American expeditionary forces and their satellites, mainly through savage bombings and bloody terror raids. In 1966, 638,000 tons of bombs and half a million tons of shells were used against the civilians, destroying villages, pagodas, schools, hospitals. There have been hundreds of Oradours and Lidices on an area smaller than France or Czechoslovakia and with a smaller population. Every time the Americans step up their war of aggression, the " burn all, destroy all, kill all " policy is intensified.

" Burn all, destroy all, kill all " — the policy applies not to any single village, but to scores of them at a time, to vast regions. The Americans' plan is to create " white (dead) areas, erasing from the maps whole regions, whole towns... " *Aircraft and warships have been carrying out round-the-clock bombardments. Their objectives were all signs of life or suspected signs of life : figures of human beings or cattle, some fires, smoke, trees stirred by the wind ".*

After citing undeniable facts, the book ends with the following conclusion :

" *The U.S. 'burn all, destroy all, kill all' policy in South Vietnam is one of the most striking characteristics of their way of aggression in Vietnam and*

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A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF U.S. AIR RAIDS ON NORTH VIETNAM CITIES

CONFESSION BY RICHARD ALLEN STRATTON, LtCdr., U.S.S. *TICONDEROGA*, CAPTURED IN NORTH VIETNAM ON JAN. 5, 1967

I am Richard Allen Stratton, a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy attached to VA-192, CAW- 19, U.S.S. Ticonderoga. *The following are statements concerning my crimes committed on the D.R.V. during November and December 1966 :*

The Ticonderoga *arrived in the Tonkin Gulf on 14 November 1966. I had been sorry to leave my family, unsure of the direction which the war was taking and certain in my own mind that most of the people back home did not know or care what was happening in Vietnam. The U.S. policy appeared to be a succession of errors inherited by and added to by succeeding administrations. The general ignorance concerning the country of Vietnam was appalling and mine was no exception.*

The first mission on 14 November, my first in combat, was against a highly populated section of Vinh. The target was briefed by the Wing Air Intelligence officer, Ltjg O'Farrel as being of the highest political priority in that the people themselves must be made to feel the pressures and realities of war.

This would be a four plane fight—all A-4's, the first two aircraft would have 2 C.B.U.'s and two 500-pounds fragmentation bombs ; the second two would have 2 napalm tanks and two 500-pounds frags. The tactics would be to come in low in two sections, climb to 5,000ft next to the city, and dive across from east to west. The C.B.U.'s and napalm would be used to catch exposed people. A second sweep from west to east with frags would catch the sheltered areas and spread the flames made by napalm.*

I led the flight and flew in as briefed. The time of 10.00 a.m. was chosen so that as many people would be exposed as possible. The weather was good and there was no difficulty finding the target, the first pass with C.B.U.'s and napalm found people running for cover. On coming back for the second attack people could be seen lying about or running with clothes afire.

About this time we saw the Vinh B.D.A. photographs. There was obviously no military and no discernible industrial significance to anything in view. It was so obviously a residential area that we had the photo and target coordinates checked against each other. There was no doubt that this burnt out area had been our target. We were disgusted.

During this same period we went on another mission of similar type to a small village about 30 miles north of the demilitarized zone.

This would be another four plane flight, 2 aircraft would have 2"75 rockets, and C.B.U.'s, the second 2 aircraft would have 2"75 rockets and napalm. Being a rural area, dush was chosen to get most of the people gathered together in one place. The tactics were left open since there was virtually no AA opposition.

I led the flight and had a little trouble identifying the target due to the failing light. The first section cut across low dropping C.B.U.'s, the second section firing its guns. We wheeled back. This time the first section used rockets and guns, and the second dropping napalm and firing guns. We circled the area but could distinguish nothing but shadow running against a background of flame.

On the 22 of November we were to strike Nam Dinh. Since we had spent so much time in the south along the coast, O'Farrel explained that it was felt that the war should be brought further north.

*This was a six plane flight, two F8's and four A4's. The F8's would carry two 500 frags, two Sidewinders** and 20mm ammunition. The first two A4's would carry one C.B.U.'s, two 500 frags.*

The second two were to carry 2 napalm tanks and two 500 frags. The F8's were to sweep in first delivering their rockets and bombs and climbing to a position north of the city to provide protection from the MIG's with their remaining Sidewinders. The A4's would come out of the sun out of the east since target time was again 10.00 a.m. to have the maximum number of people exposed. The C.B.U.'s and napalm would be delivered first and the frags would be used on the return run to spread the fire and cover sheltered places.

In the debrief my Wingman John Parks stated that it was a useless target, a senseless target and so he brought his frags bombs back. The air wing commander set the policy that anyone who brought his bombs back henceforth would be court martialed. Later photographs showed that Ltjg Parks was right, it was a useless target, strictly a wide area of houses, shops and shrines.

The 2nd of December was to be an air wing strike on the suburbs of Hanoi. The area ran from the center of the town to ten miles south and is distinctly an area of houses, shops, parks and pagodas. The air wing commander Cdr. Phillips said that this was an extremely important mission necessary to make the people of Hanoi realize that they were not immune from the ravages of war. Also in a larger sense the mission was for the world at large to show it what could be done and test its reaction.

I took part in the 2 December 1966 raid on Hanoi. At the briefing, beside Cdr. Phillips were Cdr. Hathaway-commanding officer of V.A.-195 ; Cdr. Fellows, air wing operations officer ; Cdr. Hill, former commanding officer of V.A.-192 ; Cdr. Moore, executive officer of V.A.-192 ; Cdr. Estocin, operation officer of V.A.-192 and over thirty other officers. The brief started about two and one half hours prior to take off.

The target was to be the south side of Hanoi, an area from the center of the city extending ten miles to the south. Anti-personnel weapons were chosen to inflict maximum damage on the population. The busiest part of the day was chosen for maximum effect on the population.

2-The strike would involve four F8 aircraft with two 500-pound fragmentation bombs and four

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* Canister bomb unit.
** Air-air missile.

On the Occasion of the 17th Anniversary of Nation - Wide Anti - U. S. Day

FROM THE FIRST BATTLE

JUST when the first Yankees made their appearance on our soil, the anti-U.S. storm began raging across Vietnam with unbending. Saigon — Cholon — Gia Dinh city as its starting point.

On March 18, 1950, U.S. warships *Sticken* and *Andersen* called at Saigon port. In the sky, a swarm of aircraft flown from a carrier then prowling off the coast circled. The interventionists from the other side of the Pacific were preparing to show the flag. They wanted to use America's "unimaginable might" to intimidate the Vietnamese people who were on the road to victory in their anti-French resistance, initiating Washington's direct intervention in the Indo-China war.

That very night, the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh armed forces sent a barrage of mortar fire into the heart of Saigon close to the port where the American ships were swinging at anchor.

Next day, March 19, 500,000 unarmed Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh citizens representing the will of the whole nation to fight against foreign aggression poured out into the streets, carrying aloft gold-starred flags and shouting "Down with American interventionists!" and "U.S. imperialists get out!" This marked the beginning of the great long march of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. interventionists. With Nguyen Huu Tho, then a lawyer in Saigon, now President of the South Vietnam N.F.L., taking the lead together with other prominent personalities and intellectuels, the demonstrators marched on the American Embassy in Saigon, tore down the Stars and Stripes and set fire to American cars, in defiance of police and French Expeditionary Corps cordons. In face of the spirited struggle of the masses, the U.S. warships and aircraft had to quit South Vietnam, discontinuing their show of strength.

This first battle marked a significant victory in the war of resistance against foreign aggression of the Vietnamese people and of Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh city. March 19 has become the historic Nation-Wide Anti-U.S. Day.

Continuing this tradition, the people of Saigon — Cholon — Gia Dinh as well as those of other South Vietnamese cities, from 1954 rose up in unprecedentedly powerful political struggles, and along with the struggle of the people in the whole country, brought about the collapse of U.S puppet regime in Saigon and the unavertible bankruptcy of the Pentagon's special war.

Since the beginning of 1965 when Washington decided to introduce its expeditionary forces into South Vietnam to conduct the most brutal war of aggression since the end of World War II, the South Vietnamese people have never loosened hold of their arms in a grim determination to fight to a finish. The triplet city of Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh is a vast sea of political struggle in which the unarmed masses have toppled one puppet clique after another. It is also a real battle-ground which has witnessed many resounding victories of the L.A.F. in their attacks against U.S. strategic bases such as Tan Son Nhat, and against the precincts of top U.S. aggressors such as the American Embassy and general Westmoreland's headquarters.

Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh which was the scene of the first successful battle against North American interventionists will also be that of the last victorious battle of the South Vietnamese people against the White House's war of aggression.

LANDMARKS IN U.S. IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION AND AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM

March 18, 1950: A U.S. aircraft carrier and two U.S. warships calling at Saigon to show the flag and to browbeat the Vietnamese people fighting against the French colonialists triggered a huge anti-U.S. demonstration by 500,000 Saigon people.

December 23, 1950: The United States signed a treaty of "common defence" with the Indo-Chinese Associated States. A U.S. military mission MAAG was sent to Saigon.

1950 — 1954: The United States granted France 2,600 million dollars. From 1950 to 1953 it brought into Indo-China 400,000 tons of war material, 150,000 tons of weapons, 340 aircraft and 350 naval craft.

April 8, 1954: Washington discussed with Paris the implementation of the *Vautour* plan on the use of U.S. planes to massively bomb the vicinity of Dien Bien Phu in an attempt to wipe out the Vietnam People's Army.

June 1954: The United States imposed on France Ngo Dinh Diem, a U.S.-groomed lackey, as puppet Prime Minister of Vietnam.

August 1954: The SEATO aggressive bloc was set up as a "protective umbrella" for South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

November 1954: General Collins, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, was appointed American Ambassador to Saigon to put into practice the plan of driving out the French colonialists and taking over South Vietnam by establishing an army for the Diem regime, creating up a puppet national assembly, and giving U.S. henchmen positions in the puppet administration.

May 13, 1961: A Johnson-Diem communique was made public: The United States increased its military aid to Saigon, beefed up the MAAG with more than 1,000 advisers, stepped up special work...

October 1961: The United States drew up the Staley-Taylor plan aimed at pacifying South Vietnam within 18 months.

February 8, 1962: The United States founded a U.S. military command in Saigon under General Paul D. Harkins.

August 9, 1964: U.S. planes attacked many coastal areas of the D.R.V. and on February 7, 1965 the U.S. escalated the air war of destruction against the D.R.V.

April 10, 1965: The first U.S. combat troops landed in Da Nang, and on July 28, 1965, President Johnson decided to send U.S. expeditionary troops to South Vietnam.

June 8, 1965: President Johnson committed U.S. troops directly to the Vietnam fighting.

End of 1965: The U.S. strength in South Vietnam reached 180,000.

End of 1966: The total U.S. effectives in South Vietnam rose to 380,000 and to 415,000 at present.

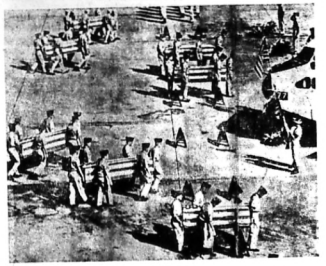
IN 1965, the South Vietnam armymen and people wiped out 227,500 enemy troops, including 19,200 Americans and 208,300 puppets, downed 1,337 planes and destroyed 1,960 military vehicles.

In 1966, the total of enemy casualties in South Vietnam ran to 268,200 men, including 118,000 GIs and satellite troops, and 150,200 puppet soldiers, 2,130 aircraft and 3,300 military vehicles.

AMERICAN AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM

— Plan...

— Execution...



— Result

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, DETERMINED TO FIGHT, WILL CERTAINLY WIN

SEVENTEEN years ago 500,000 people in Saigon took to the streets to face a show of strength staged by two American warships, thus triggering off a powerful movement against U.S. intervention and aggression in Vietnam.

Since that historic event and their splendid victory at Dien Bien Phu which led to the defeat of the U.S. — backed French colonialists, the Vietnamese people have been continually fighting against American imperialism and its henchmen in South Vietnam. They have frustrated their "special war" and are defeating their "limited war", winning ever-greater victories in their march towards complete national liberation and the reunification of their beloved country. Those are hard facts which give headaches to Washington, and elicit exclamations from such notorious political figures as U.S. congressman Stennis: Why can a small, under-developed country like Vietnam tie up our feet and our hands, and force us to deploy such a considerable military force and use up so many resources in the past many months?

Why dare the Vietnamese people fight and entertain firm confidence in a victory over the American aggressors — topmost imperialists commanding a powerful economic and military potential?

The answer to the question is multi-sided. Above all, this courage and confidence are explained by the fact that the Vietnamese people know how to appraise correctly the forts and foibles of their opponent, and benefit from a clearsighted leadership capable of working out an appropriate line and combat methods to vanquish him.

For the independence and freedom of their homeland, for their own happiness and the happiness of their offsprings, they have no other alternative than to close their ranks and rise up in arms against their enemy.

To wage an unequal fight opposing a small, poor and backward agricultural country to a first-rate imperialist power possessed of tremendous military and economic capacities, the Vietnamese people start from a revolutionary viewpoint—to struggle resolutely for their very survival and base themselves on the concrete situation brought about by seventeen years of their confrontation with U.S. imperialism. They have clearly realized the forts and the foibles of their enemy and are firmly convinced that a nation, which, united as one man, carries on the struggle along a correct revolutionary line, will surely win victory over the U. S. aggressors.

True, U.S. imperialism wields a big economic potential, and has an aggregate industrial and agricultural output several times larger than that of the D.R.V. It has a sizable aggressive force equipped with up-to-date weapons.

But it is also true that in spite of all its wealth it is not strong. Like an immense and insatiable octopus holding out its tentacles far and wide as though it wants to swallow up our planet, the United States, which has established some 3,000 military bases in many parts of the world, is bound to spread thin its forces everywhere. After throwing into the Vietnam war more than one million troops, among whom 420,000 GI's, the Pentagon and General Westmoreland find that they are still short of officers and men. To occupy the Mekong delta and the Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces in the northernmost part of South Vietnam, they need another 5 or 6 divisions. Where will they take them from to carry on this money-and-man-devouring war that has become a bottomless barrel for them?

In any war one of the decisive factors is a correct strategy. Their blitz war strategy having come to grief, the Americans are banking on a long war dragging on for five, ten, even twenty years, something that the economic and political conditions of their country will not allow. They possess a modern equipment indeed. But how can they bring it into full play in the Vietnamese theatre of guerilla operations? As confirmed by The New York Herald Tribune *(Feb. 10, 1967), it is too sophisticated to be of any use in Vietnam.*

The U.S.A. abounds in resources and possesses plenty of dollars but its capabilities are not boundless. The war in Vietnam drains from 30 to 40 billion every year, even 50 billion, as is already foreseen by American magnates themselves, from June 30, 1968 onwards, i.e. one-third of the U.S. annual budget, or nearly three times as much as in the Korean war. This explains why the U. S. "gold haemorrhage" keeps aggravating. Waging an aggressive war on a land ten thousand miles away from its shore, the United States, as also acknowledged by The New York Herald Tribune, *has to cover too long supply lines and lack logistic bases to be equal to the task.*

Politically, the United States is utterly weak for its aggression against Vietnam is completely unjust. Senator Fulbright, Chairman of the U.S. Congress Foreign Affairs Committee, bluntly admitted that "we (the U.S.A.) are condemned by the whole world".

Due to the unjust nature of its war and its increasing failures, Newsweek *(Feb. 6, 1967) has every reason to say that the morale of the G.I.'s in South Vietnam is lower than grass-tops. Rush himself has admitted that American officers are facing "a serious moral problem".*

Fighting a neo-colonialist war of aggression, the American have to rely on a puppet army and a puppet administration. In South Vietnam, however, the puppet army goes on disintegrating.

According to the Western press the desertion-rate reaches more than 10,000 per month. As for the puppet administration, it is heading for collapse and is torn by sharp internal contradictions and a bitter contest for privileges, to such a point that the puppets have had to resort to force to oust one another.

On the world scene U.S. imperialism is faced with the growing forces of the socialist countries, the tidal waves of the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as the mounting struggle for peace and democracy in various countries, the United States included. It has also to cope with internal antagonisms in the imperialist camp itself.

Along with the aforesaid difficulties which have had repercussions among the U.S. ruling circles, the setbacks suffered on the Vietnamese battlefields have aggravated the contradictions between different factions, particularly in the current election year.

In the eyes of the American people, all that throws a stronger light on the failure of the White House and the Pentagon in their aggressive war. Wrote W. Lippmann: About the Vietnam war Mr. Johnson talks like a fool and there is not a ray of hope indicating that he will succeed (The New York Herald Tribune, *Jan. 18, 1967).*

Bent under the weight of so many difficulties, and beaten black and blue, the American octopus is facing an opponent he himself terms "the best guerillas in history". Relying on the strength of their clever revolutionary line, their creative people's war, their courage and resourcefulness, the Vietnamese people and armed forces have compelled their opponent to fight battles of their own choice, and on battlefields of their own making. They prevent him from carrying into full effect his strong points, strike him on the raw and exasperate his basic contradictions, so that the more he wriggles the harder their blows and the heavier his defeats will become.

The main feature of people's war lies in that every deeply patriotic person can become a combatant resourceful, versatile and thoroughly familiar with the terrain on which he is operating.

On this land which has witnessed a twenty-year long struggle for independence and freedom, the fighting force of the people is invincible. As President HO CHI MINH has declared, they stand ready to fight another five, ten, twenty years or longer.

In two years of confrontation with the U.S. "limited war" in South Vietnam and its war of destruction in North Vietnam our people wiped out some hundred thousand American and puppet troops in the South and brought down over 1,700 American aircraft in the North. They know understand much better the transient strong points of their enemy and his basic weaknesses, and have devised tactics of their own to get the better of him. More than ever before they are firmly confident in their own strength, in the leadership of the Vietnam Workers' Party, the D.R.V. Government and the South Vietnam N.F.L. and with this they will surely defeat the American aggressors, even if the latter increase their effectives to 500,000 or 600,000 men. The growing sympathy and support of the socialist countries, the newly independent countries, the peace and justice-loving people all over the world, including the American people, will further strengthen their confidence in their final victory.

The People of NAM NGAN Village in Combat Against the Americans

OVER the past two years, the people of Nam Ngan, a village located south of Ham Rong bridge, have together with those of Yen Vuc, living north of the bridge, fought by the side of army units over 300 battles against the American air pirates and downed over 80 of their planes. They have grown more mature and experienced with each fight.

THAT morning, the village militiamen and other villagers were working on some water conservancy project when the alarm sounded. They immediately joined their combat positions. Two enemy jets swooped on the bridge. One was shot down on the spot, the other, damaged, hastily fled.

But another attack took place. Our groundfire wove a deadly net around the diving enemy planes. Our own fighter planes made their apparition. Our naval craft also joined in the fighting. This efficient combination of our forces brought about fine results: seven more enemy jets downed.

Stung by these heavy losses, the enemy threw in more aircraft. The whole area was shrouded in smoke and fire. More than an hour passed without a lull in the attacks. New dispositions were taken by the Nam Ngan forces. While infantry weapons kept a steady fire at enemy jets, forcing them to fly at higher altitude and thus expose themselves to the blows of our anti-aircraft batteries, a contingent of militiamen was assigned to the job of carrying ammunition for army units. They performed their task in several ways: carrying the cases of munitions on their backs, by boat, or through making a chain. Enemy bombs and shells fell thick as hail. Yet, not only ammunition but food and refreshments were also brought to the fighters by women and children volunteers.

That day's fighting ended with an impressive score: 20 enemy planes downed. All attacks repulsed.

NEARLY two months later, another fierce round of fighting took place. That day, the Nam Ngan people were bringing in the Summer harvest when scores of American jets turned up. They immediately opened fire on them, in co-ordination with one of our naval craft. Some of the men took up position on the dyke itself; others knelt at the very edge of the water. As had happened in previous time, their fire compelled the enemy jets to climb to a higher altitude, where deadly flak was waiting for them.

After foiling the first series of enemy attacks, Nam Ngan militiamen were assigned the job of giving support to our naval craft. The latter was then zigzagging on the river, firing away at the enemy with all its guns. The militia's sampans soon joined it and the men jumped aboard: wounded sailors were bandaged; some gunners, seriously injured, were replaced by militiamen. One remarkable thing happened: Four brothers found themselves manning the same anti-aircraft gun, under command of the eldest!

While the craft's gun were blazing, militiamen walking along the dyke were giving it support fire, and women villagers, among them the nun of the village pagoda, brought basketfuls of food and refreshments to the fighters at their gun emplacements. Even the children wanted to participate. Wearing camouflage branches, they brought coconuts and drinking water to the soldiers.

Everywhere, at the combat positions, along the dyke, on the river, efficient co-ordination took place between armymen and ordinary people.

The fighting ended in victory for our side: Ham Rong bridge stood intact while the enemy had to withdraw in discomfiture.

Photo:

The L.A.F. are ready for action

THE ENTIRE SOCIALIST CAMP SUPPORTS VIETNAM AND CONDEMNS THE U.S. IMPERIALIST AGGRESSORS

U.S.S.R.

ON March 10, 1967, L. Brejnev, Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party, vehemently condemned the U.S. imperialist aggressive war in Vietnam in a speech at the Benmansk constituency, Moscow, on the occasion of the forthcoming election to the Supreme Soviet. He said: *"The American imperialists are waging a criminal war on the Vietnamese people. Even those who are light-hearted now realized that the U.S. ruling circles have deceived the world peoples and their own people with double talk about their readiness to settle the Vietnam problem by peaceful means. Moreover, as if to defy the peoples throughout the world who are demanding an end to the war against Vietnam, the U.S. government recently announced expansion of its aggression. The aggressors have not only savagely bombed towns and villages in the D.R.V. but, also fired artillery shells on the territory and dropped mines into many rivers of North Vietnam".*

After pointing out the internationalist obligation of the entire socialist camp towards Vietnam, L. Brejnev stressed: *"The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are translating into reality their solidarity with the D.R.V. and the fighting Vietnamese people and are giving them a multiform aid in their struggle against U.S. aggression".*

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

ON March 5, 1967 the Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement fully supporting the two statements by the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation on February 28, 1967 and by the D.R.V. Foreign Ministry on March 1st, 1967 about the U.S. imperialists' expansion of the war in South and North Vietnam. The statement strongly condemned the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy of the American aggressors in South Vietnam and at the same time opposed the wanton bombing of populous areas, the shelling by ground and naval artillery of the D.R.V. territory and the dropping of mines into many rivers in North Vietnam. The statement stressed: *"The present rampage of the U.S. imperialists does not indicate their strength but their weakness. The Chinese government and people consider the support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's revolutionary struggle a lofty international duty. China is Vietnam's rear. Through fair and foul the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples will for ever stand side by side to struggle until victory".*

ALBANIA

THE Central Council of the Albanian Trade Unions and the Albanian Labour Youth Union have sent messages to the South Vietnam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions and the South Vietnam Liberation Federation of Youth expressing full support to the N.F.L. February 28, 1967 statement. The messages sternly condemned the American imperialists who had expanded the war to "enforce peace negotiations through bombing" and expressed the sympathy and support of the brother Albanian people for the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

ON March 13, 1967 Gunther Kort, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, on behalf of his government and people, unequivocally condemned the recent extremely serious acts of war escalation by the American imperialists who had sent planes to strike at many industrial areas in Thai Nguyen, Ha Bac and Quang Ninh provinces and fire rockets on several populous quarters in Haiphong city on March 10 and 11.

He then demanded that the U.S. government immediately stop unconditionally all acts of aggression against the D.R.V. and stressed: *"The G.D.R. government and people fully support the just stand of the D.R.V. government and the South Vietnam N.F.L., and will actively support and help the brother Vietnamese people to defeat the American imperialist aggressors".*

BULGARIA

ON March 11, 1967 the Bulgarian National Council, Patriotic Front, Committee for Solidarity with the Afro-Asian peoples, and the Central Council of Bulgaria Trade Unions issued a statement indignantly condemning the American imperialists' recent acts of war escalation against the D.R.V. and pointing out that the use of infantry guns and cannons from warships of the Seventh Fleet to bombard the D.R.V. territory and the air dropping of mines into many rivers in North Vietnam to disturb traffic were criminal designs. The statement reiterated the Bulgarian people's multiform support to the brother Vietnamese people who are fighting successfully against the American aggressors.

KOREA

"THE Week of solidarity with the Vietnamese people in Korea (March 13 - 19, 1967) was solemnly observed under the sponsorship of five great organizations: the Korean United and Democratic Fatherland Front, the Korean General Council of Trade Unions, the Korea-Vietnam Friendship Association, the Korean Committee to Support the South Vietnamese People's Struggle and the Korean Committee to Denounce U.S. Imperialists' Crimes in Vietnam, as well as many other mass organizations. Many meetings in support of Vietnam against U.S. aggression were held throughout the country during which the brother Korean people pledged full support and assistance to the two statements of the D.R.V. government on March 1st, 1967 and of the South Vietnam N.F.L. on February 28, 1967 and denounced the American imperialists' war intensification.

CUBA

ON the occasion of March 8, there were organized in Cuba many meetings to talk about the Vietnamese people's fight against U.S. aggression, especially about the South Vietnamese women who are cleverly and valiantly defeating the enemy in a political and military struggle. On the same occasion, Vilma Espin, a Cuban Communist Party Central Committee member and President of the Cuban Women's Union sent a greeting letter to Nguyen Thi Dinh, President of the South Vietnam Liberation Women's Union, affirming that the women and the entire people of socialist Cuba, at only 90 miles from the United States, are ready to sacrifice their lives for the sacred cause of heroic Vietnam.

HUNGARY

THE *People's Freedom*, central organ of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, stressed in its editorial of March 8, 1967, *"We Hungarian women cannot be content with the happiness of our families when our sisters in South Vietnam are massacred by a cruel enemy. On this occasion, we express our solidarity with our heroic Vietnamese sisters and pledge ourselves constantly to side with them in their struggle. Together with progressive women the world over, we sternly condemn the U.S. imperialist aggression".*

MONGOLIA

THE statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Mongolian People's Republic on March 4, 1967 considers that the bombardment of many populated areas of Thanh Hoa and Nam Ha provinces (D.R.V.) by vessels of the Seventh Fleet, the air dropping of mines into many rivers of North Vietnam to disrupt communications, the use of 175mm guns based south of the Ben Hai river to fire at the northern demilitarized zone to kill people there, and the large-scale terrorist raids in South Vietnam, constitute new extremely savage and inhuman crimes. The Mongolian government and people severely denounced these war acts of the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

POLAND

ACCORDING to the Polish news agency, at the meeting of the Wroclaw Unified Workers' Party branch, Cyrankiewicz, Chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, stated: *"Our Party and the entire Polish people fully support the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people. We are helping and will continue to help them fight as much as we can. The Vietnamese people live far from us but the cause they are fighting for is very near to our hearts. This is a struggle to wipe off old and new colonialism and imperialism, a struggle which will certainly bring about victory for all peoples. In this struggle we stand side by side with the Vietnamese people".*

(Continued page 7)

WEEK OF TRI-CONTINENTAL SOLIDARITY WITH VIETNAM (MAR. 13 - 19, 1967)

The Vietnamese People Thank the Asian, African and Latin American Peoples for Their Support

TRAN DANH TUYEN

Head of the Vietnamese delegation to the Tri-Continental Conference

THE peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been constantly siding with the Vietnamese people in the fight against the U.S. imperialist aggressors. They have clearly realized that our people have made all sacrifices and endured all hardships to oppose U.S. imperialism, the ringleader of imperialism, not only for the sake of their own independence and freedom but also of all oppressed peoples', and of peace, democracy and social progress in the world. That is why they deeply sympathize with our people and are giving stronger and stronger support to our people's just struggle, rejoicing over the thunder blows dealt by the armies and peoples in both South and North Vietnam at the U.S. aggressors, regarding these victories as their own.

The warm feelings of the peoples in the three continents for our people's resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation found a concentrated expression in the first solidarity conference of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America held in the first days of January 1966 in Havana, capital of the Republic of Cuba. At this conference the Vietnam problem was regarded as the focal point of the revolutionary movement of the peoples throughout the world. All the 82 delegations to the conference strongly condemned the savage crimes of aggression by U.S. imperialism in Vietnam, indicted them as war criminals, and international gendarme and the most cruel enemy of mankind.

The conference unanimously held that "the struggle of the Vietnamese people constitutes in itself a direct support for and a powerful contribution to the national liberation movement of the peoples in the three continents. It is at the same time a shining example which gives a great inspiration to the entire progressive mankind". The conference fully supported the 4-point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the 5-point statement of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and called on the progressive forces all over the world to focus all efforts on checking the aggressive war of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam, and assist the Vietnamese people in every form including the dispatch of volunteers to Vietnam when the Vietnamese people request it.

Since the Tri-Continental Conference, the movement of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples to support Vietnam has reached new heights. The Tri-Continental Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam has repeatedly denounced the barbarous crimes of the U.S. imperialists and their wicked schemes to broaden the war in Vietnam, and endeavoured to mobilize the peoples in various countries to support our people. Days or weeks of solidarity with the Vietnamese people were observed in a stirring atmosphere in all the three continents. From the fraternal socialist countries such as the Soviet Union, China, Korea, Cuba, Mongolia... and Asian countries near ours like Laos, Cambodia and Japan to the distant countries in Africa and Latin America like the Congo, Portuguese colonies, Venezuela, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic etc..., a vast movement to support Vietnam has taken on under most varied forms such as meetings, demonstrations, statements, open letters, protest messages to Johnson, film shows and exhibitions on the struggle of our people, collections of funds and medicaments and blood donations for Vietnam.

Sailors of many countries refused to ship U.S. weapons and war materials to Vietnam. Many volunteers' brigades have been set up, ready to go Vietnam to fight by the side of our people.

The powerful protest movement of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, of the peoples of the socialist countries, of the progressive people all over the world including those in the United States, has unceasingly increased the isolation of the U.S. aggressors and reflected their heavy failures not only on the military front but on the political front as well.

On the occasion of the 17th anniversary this year of the Nation-Wide Anti-U.S. Day of the Vietnamese people, the Tri-Continental Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam decided to hold a Week of Tri-Continental Solidarity with Vietnam from March 13 to March 19 with a view to impelling forward the movement to support Vietnam in all countries.

The Vietnamese people are sincerely grateful to the Asian, African and Latin American peoples' warm support, and highly value it, considering it as a valuable aid to their struggle. In response to the support given us by the peoples in the three continents, we are all the more determined to push forward our resistance to U.S. aggression and for national salvation till complete victory so as to defend the North, liberate the South and reunify the country, thus making our worthy contribution to the common revolutionary struggle of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples and the

(Continued page 7)

U.S. RAIDS ON HANOI

● *Hue side-street in the centre of the capital (Dec. 2, 1966).*

● *Tu Ky pagoda (South of Hanoi, Dec. 13 and 14, 1966).*

A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF U.S. AIR RAIDS ON NORTH VIETNAM CITIES

(Continued from page 3)

5-inch rockets; four A4 aircraft with four C.B.U.'s each; four A4 aircraft with two napalm tanks each; four A4 aircraft with eight 500 pound fragmentation bombs each; three A4 aircraft with two Bullpups each; six F8 aircraft with two Sidewinders each; all aircraft would have 20mm ammunition.*

The tactics would be to cross the city from West to East diving from the North 10 as to cover the entire southern area of the city in right hand dives. F8 aircraft, Shrike aircraft and Bullpup aircraft were cleared to strike their own direction.

The flight met heavy anti-aircraft and missile fire. It was led by Cdr. Phillips, Cdr. Hill led the second group of A4 aircraft and I flew lead of the third group of A4 aircraft. Due to heavy opposing fire from the ground, the group did not act as a unit and commenced separate attacks. I was horrified at the density of buildings and population in the target. Bombs were scattered over the entire South side of the city.

During the debrief, Cdr. Phillips announced that not enough of the target had been hit and that we would have to return to the same target again before the month was over. This statement was a result of his own observation of the results while in the air...

This raid was proof of a policy in force to apply pressure directly against the people of Vietnam. Yet I not only did not have the courage to refuse to go on the mission, but I did not have the courage to speak out against the mission or at the policy. I was inwardly ashamed at being such a coward.

On 14 December 1966 the Air Wing was called upon to make a repeal strike against Hanoi. Cdr. Phillips started the brief by remarking that the 2 December raid had received very little world wide notice. The importance of the mission was again stressed in that it had the direct interest and support of Washington's policy of bringing the war home to the Vietnamese people. The hope was still to motivate the people to bring pressure on their government to accept a compromise situation in South Vietnam. His remarks were essentially the same as on 2 December.

This strike would also involve four F-8 aircraft with two 500 pound fragmentation bombs and four 5-inch rockets; four A-4 aircraft with four C.B.U.'s each; four A.4 aircraft with two napalm tanks each; four A-4 aircraft with eight 500 pound fragmentation bombs each; three A-4 aircraft with four Shrike missiles each; three A-4 aircraft with two Bullpup missiles each; six F.8 aircraft with two Sidewinder missiles each; all aircraft would have 20mm ammunition.

I took part in this raid. Present at the briefing were Cdr. Phillips, Cdr. Mc Kellar, Cdr. Hathaway, Cdr. Chessman, Cdr. Fellows, Commander Moore, LtCdr. Scofield (VA-192) Ltjg Eddy, Ltjg Young (both VA-192) and about thirty other pilots...

The tactics this time was to cross from West to East South of the city, turn North and dive from East to West in order to cover the entire South side of the city from its center to ten miles south. The attack headings would therefore be perpendicular to those of 2 December but cover the same area. These were no specified targets; the target was the general area. The F-8, A-4 Shrike and A-4 Bullpup aircraft were to use their own discretion in selecting and firing upon targets.

On our return the raid was declared to be successful and complete. By being complete we understood that we would not be required to make the same raid again. It was over a week before we understood what the Air Wing Commander meant by successful. Numerous newspapers and magazines made it clear that the people of Hanoi had been made to feel the impact of the war and the world had certainly taken notice of what had happened. If this was the purpose of the mission — as they told us, then it was successful...

The pilots were amazed when in various statements the American Government in the person of a State Department spokesman and even in the person of President Johnson himself denied the raids on Hanoi. They said that we hit only military targets, not populated areas. They said that all strikes in the Hanoi area were made with the knowledge and approval of the President. Yet we had flown on these missions. We knew that we had hit populated areas and not military targets. We knew that we had struck Hanoi. These statements of the American Government were obviously false.

I was shot down on 5 January 1967 while conducting a coastal search mission North of Hon Me. I was instantly captured and humanely treated by the people of Vietnam. Since my capture, I have been led to see the full and true nature of my criminal acts against the people of Vietnam in terms of injury, death and destruction. I sincerely acknowledge my crimes and repent at having committed them...

March 4, 1967
RICHARD ALLEN STRATTON

* Air-soil missile.

For the Families of U.S. Prisoners

To: Mr. John Stanley Rehmann
44733 E. 90th St.
Lancaster, Calif.

Dear Dad, Fon and Family,

I am writing you all this open letter to let you know I am well and healthy. I have received burns on my legs, arms, and face along with a broken right arm when I ejected from my aircraft. The burns have healed and my right arm is coming along nicely. I have received excellent medical care.

We are being treated fair and well. Christmas Eve, we were allowed to visit the nativity scene which they had set up for us. With that there was a decorated Christmas tree.

They are allowing me to write you all New Year's day so you can expect a letter in the Mail sometime soon.

All for now. Love

DAVID GEORGE REHMANN, Second lieutenant, 698502, Squadron 154, Wing 2, Coral Sea, captured on Dec. 2, 1966.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

THE ENTIRE SOCIALIST CAMP SUPPORTS...

(Continued from page 6)

RUMANIA

THE Rumanian women are extremely indignant at the criminal acts of the American imperialists and their henchmen in South Vietnam, especially the savage rape and massacre of women. The national congress of the Rumanian Socialist Republic Women's Union has vehemently condemned the aggression of the U.S. government and expressed its solidarity with and wholehearted support for the Vietnamese people's struggle until final victory.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

IN its letter to the South Vietnam Liberation Women's Union expressing its profound sympathy for the South Vietnam women and mothers, the Women's Committee of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic wrote: *"By their daily work and other acts of solidarity the Czechoslovak women express their moral and material support to the heroic Vietnamese people in their struggle against U.S. aggression. We vehemently condemn the American troops' savage behaviour towards the South Vietnamese people and demand that they put an immediate end to it."*

The Vietnamese People Thank...

(Continued from page 6)

peoples of the world for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress.

Our era is the era of success of the movement for national independence and democracy. In the tidal wave of their revolutionary offensive in their earth-shaking struggle, the Asian, African and Latin American peoples is constantly fighting off step by step and defeating chunk by chunk the imperialists and colonialists headed by the U.S. imperialists, weakening them continually and disintegrating by big chunks their colonial system. In the pursuit of its mad dream of world hegemony through the policy of brutal wars of aggression, U.S. imperialism cannot escape the ignominious defeat experienced by the Hitlerite fascists.

U. S. Command's Ambition ...

(Continued from page 8)

and people of Tay Ninh wiped out another U.S. company of 150 men of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in a cleverly laid ambush. As disclosed by the U.S. military spokesman, this company fell into an ambush of the guerillas. A mine exploded and stopped them short while the guerillas came out and engaged them for half an hour in a hand-to-hand combat, cutting the GI's down with rifle fire and grenades. The guerillas' action was so quick that when aircraft and artillery were called in to rescue the infantrymen, the "guerillas had all disappeared".

In the following days, the L.A.F. launched two bitter counter-attacks against the U.S. and satellite troops. On March 5 night, they struck at the encampments of the Second Brigade, First U.S. Infantry Division, and of the Australian and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries along Highway 22, wiping out 700 men, completely destroying 3 artillery emplacements, including 18 105mm guns and 4 175 mm guns, and setting afire 20 military vehicles. Then on March 9 night, they counter attacked and annihilated an enemy CP, killing and wounding 300 U.S. soldiers.

On March 10 and 11, during a powerful attack, the L.A.F. on Highway 4 knocked down 620 GIs, destroyed 204 military vehicles, among which 42 tanks and M113 armoured cars, 21 105 mm and 175 mm guns and 106.6 mm mortars.

The initial successive victories of the armed forces and people of Tay Ninh have filled the U.S. aggressors with awe. The U.S. commanders in Saigon have begun to sing small about Operation *Junction City*. They have admitted that the "results of the operation have been disappointing".

AP reported on March 15 that U.S. Lieutenant general Jonathan O. Seaman commanding Operation *Junction City* had been demoted, which provides a further indication of the inevitable failure of the action.

Denunciation of U.S.

(Continued from page 3)

at the same time the most serious and vivid manifestation of aggressive wars in history... The U.S. imperialists are the most cruel aggressors in the centuries-old history of Vietnam and of mankind. They are even more dangerous, barbarous, odious and despicable than Hitlerite fascists. They have committed the crime of aggression, encroached on the national independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people, and sabotaged peace and justice... They have trampled underfoot all norms of international law... They not only kill a large number of people but also deliberately destroy all means and sources of life".

IN THE FIRST 13 DAYS OF MARCH

THE L.A.F. WON BIG VICTORIES ON VARIOUS BATTLEFIELDS

They Defeated U.S. Operation Junction City, Wiping Out 3,300 GIs, Destroying 344 Military Vehicles and 55 Artillery Pieces and Shooting Down 49 Aircraft; Shelled Da Nang Air Base Twice *(Feb. 27 and Mar. 15)* **and Mortared Chu Lai Air Base** *(Mar. 6)*, **Destroying 58 Aircraft and Wiping Out 665 GI's; Poured 2,085 Mortar Rounds into U.S. 175mm Artillery Positions at Gio Linh, Quang Tri Province** *(Feb. 28 - Mar. 7)*.

THE most striking feature of the military situation in the early days of March was that the L.A.F. continued to check Operation *Junction City* and won ever bigger victories. According to preliminary reports between Feb. 22 and Mar. 11, 3,300 G.I.'s were wiped out, one motorised battalion and 8 infantry and artillery companies completely destroyed or badly mauled, 344 military vehicles and 55 artillery pieces of various types destroyed and 49 aircraft shot down.

The disastrous failure of Operation *Junction City* is simply a follow-up of that of Operation *Attleboro* (Oct. 15 — Nov. 25, 1966) and that of Operation *Gadsden* (Feb. 2 — 22, 1967). Whereas Operation *Attleboro* saw the dismissal of Brig. Gen. De Saussure when the fighting was still in progress, this time Acuman had to give way to Gen. Bruce Palmer Jr. when the operation had only gone half way.

The big victory of the L.A.F. on the Tay Ninh battlefield is evidenced by their success not only in substantially wiping out an important part of the manpower and in destroying a sizeable quantity of means of war of the U.S. aggressive forces but also in making it impossible for them to attain all their objectives and in driving them further into the defensive and into an even greater quandary. U.S. field combat units have already sustained defeats in small-size operations. Now that they are out in larger-size operations, their defeats are all too heavier. Since they have committed a major force—up to 45,000 men—to action in Tay Ninh—a small area barely 70 or 80km from Saigon — but still fail to achieve their aims, it is now quite clear that their current second dry-season offensive is doomed to failure.

The second striking feature was that parallel with other forms of attack, the L.A.F. effectively struck at the enemy with heavy guns. Between Feb. 28 and Mar. 7, they fired 2,085 mortar rounds at U.S. 175mm artillery positions at Gio Linh, Quang Tri province, which frequently shelled D. R. V. territory across the demilitarized zone. In this punitive action, the L.A.F. inflicted heavy losses on U.S. artillery units and on 5 U.S. marine companies stationed nearby. Brig. Gen. Ryane commanding Operation *Prairie* 2 had a narrow escape.

The surprise artillery attack on Da Nang air base on Feb. 27 completely destroyed 20 aircraft of various types and wiped out 500 G.I.'s, and that on the same base on Mar. 15 hit the petroleum storage area and the aircraft so accurately that the Americans had to seal off the base to hide their losses. Preliminary reports on the mortar attack on Chu Lai air base on Mar. 6 said that 32 jets had been destroyed, and 165 Americans wiped out. Earlier the L.A.F. had mortared Tra Noc airfield, Can Tho province (Feb. 24 night), destroying 17 aircraft and wiping out 185 enemy troops. Than Cuu Nghia airfield, My Tho province (Feb. 28 night), wiping out 100 G.I.'s, and enemy positions in Bac Lieu provincial capital (Feb. 28 and Mar. 1), wiping out 364 of the defenders. Most recently, before dawn on Mar. 14, the L.A.F. mortar shelled the headquarters of Brigade 2, U.S. 4th Infantry Division, the C.P. of a battalion of this same division, and a base of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division, killing or wounding 110 infantrymen. These attacks indicate that in the hands of the L.A.F., weapons of whatever type all prove devastating for the aggressors. On the contrary, the Americans always find it difficult to bring into play the weapons at their disposal, however numerous and modern they may be, because they are fighting against an adversary which is hard to find and to fix.

The third striking feature was that in the early days of March, the L.A.F. launched a series of attacks against the enemy around Saigon. On Mar. 6, a detachment of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division was engaged 3 times and 2 helicopters were brought down, 25km southwest of the city. Next evening, in the same area, the L.A.F. wiped out 2 platoons and attacked a position of this same division. Early on Mar. 9, another unit of the 9th Infantry Division was intercepted 25km southwest of Saigon. That night, the L.A.F. made an attack on the C.P. of a puppet unit, 35km northwest of Saigon, wiping out many enemy troops, and another on an enemy position at Duc Hoa, 25km west of Saigon, virtually wiping out a whole puppet battalion. So far the Americans have made tremendous efforts to relieve the pressure on Saigon. It is clear that their efforts turn out to be futile.

FOLLOW-up reports have been released by *G.P.X.* (Liberation Press Agency) on the series of attacks launched by the L.A.F. in Lam Dong province in the 4 days ending Feb. 25. In these attacks, the L.A.F. completely destroyed 4 enemy companies (one U.S. company, one puppet ranger company and 2 Security Forces companies), inflicted heavy losses on 2 other Security Forces companies, wiped out a team of "pacification" cadres, and shot down 10 aircraft including a B.57 jet.

OPERATION **JUNCTION CITY:**

U.S. COMMAND'S AMBITION AND FAILURE

FOLLOWING the defeat of Operation *Attleboro* and *Gadsden* in Tay Ninh province which marked the first stinging setbacks of their second "dry-season counter-offensive", the U.S. aggressors have since Feb. 22, 1967, mustered their forces in a third major operation code-named *Junction City* directed against Duong Minh Chau district north of Tay Ninh provincial town.

As was disclosed by U.S. sources themselves, the U.S. had started preparations for this big operation as early as Dec. 1966, that is immediately after Operation *Attleboro* had come to a lamentable flop with 3,200 GI's put out of action. The American propaganda machine has whipped up a noisy campaign about *Junction City*, terming it as the "biggest operation of the (Vietnam) war", the "most ambitious military operation ever launched"... The U.S. objective in this operation, about which U.S. commanders themselves had made no bones, was to "blot out the enemy bases", eliminate the leading organs of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, search and destroy a large force of the Liberation Armed Forces in the area estimated at one division, according to U.S. intelligence sources, and rule out any possibility of the South Vietnam patriotic army and people to encircle and attack Saigon, and lastly to pacify and remove hundreds and thousands of the enemy people out of large areas in Tay Ninh...

In execution of this ambitious plan, the U.S. threw into Operation *Junction City* a force of 45,000 U.S. troops composed of two brigades of the *Big Red One* Infantry Division, two brigades of the 25th Infantry Division, a brigade of the 4th Infantry Division, the U.S. 11th Armoured Regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade freshly replenished after it was severely trounced in Operation *Attleboro* also in this area.

In addition, the U.S. mustered numerous support units including the 3rd Tactical Fighter Air Wing, the 4th Air Battalion, U.S. engineering and artillery units and two battalions of puppet marines. The operation was placed under the command of General Jonathan Seaman, the same U.S. general commanding Operation *Cedar Falls* which had just been crushed by the Liberation Armed Forces in early February in an area next door to Saigon.

Before the full-scale operation began the U.S. sent numerous reconnaissance units to scour Duong Minh Chau district from North to East. Many U.S. infantry units were deployed into the area for what the U.S. called "decoy probes" in an attempt to attrack the L.A.F. into battle.

On the other hand, the U.S. tried to keep their undertaking wholly dark till the last minute. The action was launched on Feb. 22, yet not until the evening of the following day did Westmoreland and his staff issue a "special communiqué" on this "gigantic" operation of theirs.

After B.52 heavy bombers made five violent successive raids from midnight Feb. 22 to dawn Feb. 22, Operation *Junction City* officially began. According to *UPI* the U.S. made intensive use of artillery and sent about 200 planes on round-the-clock raids on the area in support of the landing troops.

Initiating the operation, many C.130 cargo planes dropped a 750-men battalion of the 103rd Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, on Ca Tum area about 50km north northeast of Tay Ninh town with a view to securing a bridgehead that would seal off the Vietnam — Cambodia border at that place. Then 250 helicopters lifted infantry men into each side to form a big horseshoe north of Duong Minh Chau. At the same time tank and armoured convoys coming from the South drove into one side of the horseshoe like a wedge in an attempt to close in on the L.A.F.

However the situation evolved quite contrary to the calculations of the aggressors. According to *UPI*, the first biggest parachuting operation of the U.S. troops on Feb. 24 was a complete failure. The Brigadier-General [illegible] commander of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, who jumped first immediately came under fire from the enemy and while he was still 300m above the ground. As for the paratroops they took [illegible] immediately after touching the ground: one was cut down by the guerillas' fire, another broke his back, a third his leg. Meanwhile the troop-carrying helicopters met with intense ground fire, three of them were shot down in the first minutes. Three tanks and armoured cars of the 11th Armoured Regiment were blown up by guerillas' mines. As for the infantrymen, some stepped on mine traps, others were impaled by punji stakes or cut down by grenade traps laid on the road. Many were hit by sniper fire. The U.S. aggressors themselves admitted that U.S. troops suffered many casualties on the very landing day.

The Liberation forces and people of Duong Minh Chau stuck to the enemy and whittled it down right in the first two days of Feb. 22 and 23. Then, on Feb. 23 night and on the 24, they sprung successive raids and fierce attacks on the *Big Red One* and the 11th Armoured Regiment.

UPI reported on Feb. 24 that on Feb. 23 night the L.A.F. fired 130 mortar rounds on the *Big Red One* units stationed at Suoi Da, less than 10km from Tay Ninh town, causing to them heavy casualties, and in the morning of the following day pounded another unit of this division with artillery. At 11.45 a.m. the L.A.F. opened machinegun and recoilless gun fire on the 11th Armoured Regiment at a point 6km from the Vietnam-Cambodia border, and ambushed armoured personnel carriers in three different places.

On Feb. 25, the armed forces and people of Tay Ninh laid a successful ambush in Ca Tum area 32km northeast of Tay Ninh town, killing 50 and wounding many G.I.'s. Also in Ca Tum they wiped out a company of Pak Jung Hi mercenaries in a fierce surprise attack. This was followed by another major victory on Feb. 26. The U.S. military command bitterly admitted that "elements of the 25th Division suffered heavy losses".

On Feb. 28 the L.A.F. dealt another big punch at the *Big Red One* in Ca Tum, completely wiping out a company. On the same day another U.S. company was wiped out near Gieng Thi: three aircraft were shot down or damaged. As U.S. reinforcements were landed, 40 more were killed or wounded.

On Feb. 28 night a tank and armoured position of the 11th Armoured Regiment was assaulted by the L. A. F. which destroyed 22 tanks and APC's. At the same time the L.A.F. penetrated into a base camp of the U.S., killing or wounding 45 enemy troops with hand grenades.

On the following day, Mar. 1st, 1967, the L.A.F. mounted a violent attack on an outpost of the 25th Infantry Division guarding the headquarters of Operation *Junction City* in Dau Tieng (Thu Dau Mot province). At dawn on Mar. 3 the armed forces

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